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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 24, 1986 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 19 totaled an estimated 16.9 billion ton-miles, 1.7 percent below the corresponding week of 1985, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 16 weeks of 1986 was an estimated 271.6 billion ton-miles, up 0.3 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 19 totaled 383,926, down 2.2 percent from last year, and 0.7 percent below the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 1.2 percent in the West, but down 4.3 percent in the East, and 5.3 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 15 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Coal loadings were down by 5,020 cars (4.3 percent) and grain showed a decrease of 2,274 cars (11.3 percent). Fourteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 12 totaled 99,001 trailers and/or containers, 20.0 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 15 weeks of the year was 1,417,688 trailers and/or containers, up 13.2 percent from 1985.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/19/86:

	Loadings in Week ended April 19, 1986		Change from Corresponding Week 1985			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	17,902	D	2,274	11.3	I	177	1.0
Other farm products	2,862	D	1,008	26.0	I	38	1.3
Metallic ores	16,534	I	972	6.2	I	907	5.8
Coal	112,079	D	5,020	4.3	D	3,169	2.7
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,161	I	97	0.7	D	190	1.3
Nonmetallic minerals	10,178	D	1,556	13.3	I	523	5.4
Grain mill products	9,908	D	665	6.3	D	267	2.6
Food and kindred products	11,138	D	464	4.0	I	162	1.5
Primary forest products	10,119	D	1,438	12.4	I	187	1.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,473	I	594	7.5	I	389	4.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,234	D	1,644	11.8	D	143	1.2
Chemicals and allied products	26,547	D	1,188	4.3	D	1,289	4.6
Petroleum products	4,714	I	1	0.0	D	54	1.1
Stone, clay and glass products	10,754	D	811	7.0	I	238	2.3
Coke	5,179	D	296	5.4	I	175	3.5
Metals and products	8,234	D	564	6.4	D	734	8.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,910	D	612	2.6	I	103	0.5
Waste and scrap materials	8,907	D	417	4.5	I	62	0.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	5,487	D	984	15.2	I	93	1.7
All other carloads	65,372	I	8,547	15.0	I	22	0.0
LCL traffic	234	I	109	87.2	I	109	87.2
Total Cars Loaded	383,926	D	8,621	2.2	D	2,661	0.7
Corresponding week of 1985	392,547						

	1986	1985	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (16 weeks)	5,938,668	5,927,963	I 0.2

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
15 Weeks ended April 12	254.7	253.6	I 0.4
Week ended April 19	16.9	17.2	D 1.7
16 Weeks cumulative	271.6	270.9	I 0.3

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